



City of Edmonds Media Release

Office of the Mayor ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA 98020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 18, 2020

To: Media
Contact: Patrick Doherty, Economic Development and Community Services Director
Patrick.doherty@edmondswa.gov

EDMONDS ALLOWS CURBSIDE DINING AND CONTINUES WALKABLE MAIN STREET INTO OCTOBER

(Edmonds, WA) – Residents enjoy it. Restaurants and retailers enjoy it. So today, the City of Edmonds announces more opportunities for outdoor dining and shopping. “Walkable Main Street,” opening up Main Street to pedestrians only on Saturdays and Sundays, will continue until the weekend of October 10th-11th. And new as of today – restaurants throughout Downtown may also use adjacent parking spaces during the week to provide more outdoor dining options.

Curbside Dining

Like many cities in the greater Puget Sound including Snohomish, Enumclaw and Bellevue, Edmonds restaurants will now be able to serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner in curbside areas so long as they provide a highly visible and protected space. Each curbside dining area will be bracketed by water-filled Jersey barriers, with protective fencing parallel to the travel lane, per City guidelines.

This designation is open to all restaurants, not just restaurants on Main Street. The new option goes into effect immediately and will continue through the weekend of October 10th-11th.

“This temporary program is intended to help address this particularly challenging time for our city’s restaurants as they struggle with the new restrictions that reduce indoor dining options,” said Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson. “Also we have learned people prefer the safer option of dining outdoors when given the choice.”

Walkable Main Street

The City also announces that Walkable Main Street will extend through the weekend of October 10th-11th, which coincides with the seasonal end of the Edmonds Summer Market.

As for business-owner feedback, a recent poll, conducted by the Edmonds Downtown Alliance, showed that 59 percent of downtown retailers and restaurant owners support Walkable Main Street.

The City has heard from business owners who asked for more improvements, including enhanced signage about masking and social distancing, as well as aesthetic enhancements. The City will work to incorporate these suggestions as the program moves through the end of summer into fall.

“First and foremost, our Walkable Main Street program has been, and continues to be, intended to provide a safe, expanded area for people to come Downtown on the weekends and stroll Main Street, maintaining appropriate distancing, which is not possible on our narrow sidewalks on these busier days,” said Mayor Nelson.

“The added benefit of closing down Main Street is that retailers and restaurants can offer outside shopping and dining to willing patrons. We’ve seen from the many comments, emails and even survey data that Edmonds folks overwhelmingly enjoy Walkable Main Street.”

For more information, please contact Economic Development and Community Services Director Patrick Doherty at patrick.doherty@edmondswa.gov or 425-771-0251.

###